

Officials from the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, USDA APHIS, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Parks and Forestry, USDA Forest Service, the Township of Woodbridge and Borough of Carteret held a media briefing on Tuesday, November 23 to talk about the impending start of cutting down ALB infested trees in the Middlesex/Union infestation.

With tree-cutting in the core of the infestation set to start on Monday, November 29, the agencies coordinated a media outreach to inform residents of what to expect and why it has to be done. New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Charles M. Kuperus led a walking tour of two of the most heavily infested areas – a streambed and a mobile home park near the corner of Blair Road and Roosevelt Avenue on the Carteret-Woodbridge border. Secretary Kuperus, New Jersey ALB Project Director Barry Emens and NJDA Division of Plant Industry Director Carl Schulze served as the primary spokesmen for the event.

The briefing generated same-day coverage by News 12 New Jersey, next-day coverage in the *Home News Tribune* and the *Star-Ledger* and scheduled coverage later in the week in the *Woodbridge Sentinel*. Also, CBS-TV in New York and 1010 WINS Radio conducted follow-up interviews on Wednesday, November 24 with members of the ALB eradication team. A story also is slated to appear in the *Gardener News* trade publication.

USDA officials attending the event, including National ALB Cooperative Eradication Program Director Christine Markham and USDA APHIS-PPQ Director of Emergency Programs Mike Stefan attended the briefing, as did Mayor Frank Pelzman of Woodbridge and Carteret Parks and Recreation Supervisor Robert Kately. Mayor Pelzman spoke to the media about the high level of cooperation and professionalism displayed by all the agencies working on the ALB eradication.

During this first phase of cutting, to begin Monday, November 29, roughly 1,000 trees will be removed to halt the beetle's spread. Eventually, as many as 4,000 trees will come down. In addition to the tour and media coverage, the New Jersey Department of Agriculture is sending out an informational letter to all residents who are scheduled to lose a tree or trees on their property.

On November 17, 2004, Barry Emens, USDA APHIS New Jersey ALB Program Director, gave a presentation to the Bergen Shade Tree League in Upper Saddle River, NJ. The Bergen Shade Tree League is a group comprised of New Jersey Shade Tree Commissioners, DPW employees, arborists and other interested parties from Bergen County. Rosa Yoo, New Jersey community forester and ALB outreach coordinator, also attended the meeting and answered reforestation questions. Approximately 35 people attended the meeting.

Delimiting surveys continued this week, with 47,413 trees inspected to date. A total of 410 infested trees have been detected.